

Claim 12 (Amended). An *in vitro* screening method for identifying insect tolerant genotypes or clones, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) growing plantlets in an *in vitro* system;
- b) [a) detecting] screening the plantlets for molecular variation of somaclones using RAPD analysis *in vitro*;
- c) [b)] selecting the somaclones having molecular variation;
- d) [c)] exposing the somaclones of step [b)] c) to insect larvae or nymphs;
- e) [d)] identifying the surviving somaclones; and
- f) [e)] growing the surviving somaclones into adult plants.

Claim 13 (Amended). An *in vitro* screening method for identifying insect tolerant genotypes or clones, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) growing plantlets in an *in vitro* system;
- b) [a) detecting] screening the plantlets for molecular variation of somaclones of *Mentha arvensis* using RAPD analysis *in vitro*;
- c) [b)] selecting the somaclones of *Mentha arvensis* having molecular variation;
- d) [c)] exposing the somaclones of step [b)] c) to insect larvae or nymphs;
- e) [d)] identifying the surviving somaclones of *Mentha arvensis*; and
- f) [e)] growing the surviving somaclones into adult *Mentha arvensis*

plants.